



Advocating for  
disability civil rights  
since 1979

March 3, 2008

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Speech-to-Speech Relay

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the staff and Board of Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund in support of providing training to potential Speech-to-Speech (STS) users. I am writing to ask that California's application for telecommunications relay service (TRS) recertification includes a comprehensive plan to train prospective users to use STS.

Speech-to-Speech has been a relay service that has worked. It has aided an ever-increasing number of consumers with speech disabilities to attain functional equivalency. It has been the best answer to fulfilling the promise of Section 225 of the Communications Act for this population. This act requires that the FCC ensure that both "interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services are available, to the extent possible, to...speech-impaired individuals." Presently, the state appears to be violating the spirit of section 225.

Every person with a speech disability has the right to know how to use STS. Please ensure that this state's recertification plan includes adequate funding for a comprehensive statewide training for all potential users.

Sincerely,

Susan Henderson  
Managing Director

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**DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUCATION & DEFENSE FUND**

Main Office: 2212 Sixth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 • tel: 510.644.2555 [V/TTY] fax: 510.841.8645  
Government Affairs: 1730 M Street NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036 • tel: 800.348.4232

[www.dredf.org](http://www.dredf.org)

